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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

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22 MAY 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Laos

a. Weather has delayed Souvanna's departure from Rangoon, probably until Wednesday.

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c. Thai Premier Sarit yesterday told Ambassador Young he was alarmed and astonished by a telegram from Phoumi alleging we had ordered Boun Oum to form a new government with Phoumi left out. Somewhat reassured by Young's reply that Phoumi would "be properly involved" in forthcoming talks and events thereafter, Sarit indicated he would again press Phoumi to cooperate with us, but he refused to commit himself on the desirability of replacing Phoumi with more responsible Lao political leaders.

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d. Vientiane is still trying to convince us that "Chinese" participated in the Nam Tha action. Their latest gambit is to assert that Lu tribesmen took part in the attack and that members of this tribe, which inhabit both sides of the border with China, are really Chinese no matter which side they live on.

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2. Hong Kong refugees

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3. Franco foresees no difficulty in extending US base rights

a. He also suggested to General LeMay that we establish base operations in the Spanish Sahara if and when the Moroccan bases are vacated. Franco, while saying he wants to counter Communist influence in the area, is more immediately interested in enlisting our support for Spain in its territorial disputes with Morocco.

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b. Delegates from Spain's African territories, meanwhile, will figure prominently among "freedom fighters" from African dependencies who will arrive in Accra at the end of the month to discuss what the Ghanaian press describes as an "all-out offensive" to liberate Spanish colonies in Africa.

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4. Viet Cong may mount a determined campaign against strategic hamlets

Hanoi's propaganda

betray 50X1

a mounting concern lest the US-supported strategic hamlet program succeeds in depriving the Viet Cong of the support they rely on at the village level. The Viet Cong in early May attacked several agricultural development centers and "Operation Sunshine" hamlets may become prime targets in an effort designed to intimidate future participants and tie down government forces to protect them.

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5. Congo

Gullion and

UN representative Gardiner are casting about for ways of bringing pressure, particularly on Adoula, to get the negotiations moving. Gardiner is now of a mind to refuse to commit UN forces to support an extension of Leopoldville's influence in Katanga unless Adoula adopts a more reasonable approach toward Tshombé. Barring some success before the UN Security Council meets, Gullion foresees either a resolution calling for more radical action or a Western veto of such a resolution. In either event, our prestige and influence is likely to suffer.

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NOTES

A. Hints that De Gaulle will call for a referendum on the issue of European integration may precipitate a move soon in the National Assembly to unseat the Pompidou cabinet.

B. [redacted] introduction into Mexico of Czech-made automatic weapons. The weapons evidently are finding their way into caches in the mountains to the west and also are cropping up in the Guatemala border area. Officials suspect sea shipment from Cuba, but apparently that is about all they know so far.

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C. Syrian President Qudsi has summoned Ambassador Knight, the Soviet ambassador, and the British ambassador for separate meetings today on some as yet undisclosed matter.

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D. Violence may erupt today in Asmara as the Eritrean assembly convenes to debate merger with Ethiopia. [redacted] the Moslem underground there plans a violent demonstration to publicize their goal of Eritrean independence.

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E. Haitian President Duvalier will be making numerous public appearances today and tomorrow at "Day of Gratitude" ceremonies observing the first anniversary of his re-election for a six-year term. [redacted] violence against him on this occasion is possible.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

For The President Only—Top Secret